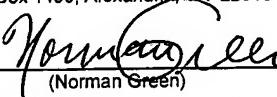


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV 743886595 US, in an envelope addressed to: MS PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: April 7, 2006

Signature:


(Norman Green)

Docket No.: 564462004100
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Michelle CAYOUETT ET AL.

Application No.: 10/530,643

Confirmation No.: 7609

Filed: Int'l. - October 10, 2003

Art Unit: 1652

International Application No.: PCT/US03/32819

For: PROTEASES, NUCLEIC ACIDS ENCODING
THEM AND METHODS FOR MAKING AND
USING THEM

Examiner: unassigned

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, Applicant respectfully requests entry on this Preliminary Amendment for the above-captioned patent application. This Preliminary Amendment is being filed with a response to Notification of Missing Requirements for which a response was initially due on February 7, 2006. Applicants submit herewith a Petition for 2 Months Extension of Time to April 7, 2006. Accordingly, this Preliminary Amendment is timely filed.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 22 of this paper.

The following documents are enclosed herewith:

- Transmittal Letter to the United States Designated-Elected Office;
- Petition for 2 Months Extension of Time;
- Copy of Notification of Missing Requirements;
- Response to Notification of Missing Requirements;
- Statement to Support Filing and Submission;
- Computer Readable Sequence Listing; and
- Return Receipt Postcard.